

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 22 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1-4, 6-14, 16-21, and 23-25 as indicated below.

A listing of the status of all claims 1-25 in the present patent application is provided below.

1 (Currently Amended). A method for collecting and reporting outcomes data for benchmarking ambulatory surgical procedures ~~outcomes monitoring~~ comprising the steps of:

collecting outcomes data sets associated with one or more medical procedures for a plurality of individuals via one or more user interfaces;

converting at least some of the outcomes data sets associated with one of the one or more medical procedures from the plurality of individuals into at least one outcomes result;

establishing a norm ~~for~~ based at least in part on an outcomes data group, the outcomes data group comprising a plurality of the outcomes data sets associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures;

comparing a selected one of the at least one outcomes result to the norm; and

generating at least one outcomes monitoring report comprising the selected one of the at least one outcomes result

and the norm.

2 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

transmitting the outcomes data sets associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures to a data processor.

3 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

selectively restricting access to the at least one outcomes monitoring report.

4 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

posting the at least one outcomes monitoring report to a webpage.

5 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of:

selectively restricting access to the webpage.

6 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

collecting the outcomes data sets associated with the one

or more medical procedures from at least one user entity at a plurality of discrete intervals.

7 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of:

generating the at least one outcomes monitoring report from at least two of the plurality of discrete intervals.

8 (Currently Presented). The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

collecting the outcomes data sets associated with the one or more medical procedures from a plurality of user entities; and

individually identifying and converting the outcomes data sets associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures for each user entity of the plurality of user entities;

wherein the outcomes data sets associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures from the plurality of user entities comprises the outcomes data group.

9 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 8, wherein the at least one outcomes monitoring report includes at least one outcomes result for a selected user entity of the plurality of

user entities and at least one comparison of the norm to ~~the~~  
~~selected one of~~ the least one outcomes result for the selected  
user entity.

10 (Currently Amended). At least one processor readable ~~carrier~~  
medium for storing a computer program of instructions configured  
to be readable by at least one processor for instructing the at  
least one processor to execute a computer process for performing  
the method as recited in claim 1.

11 (Currently Amended). A method for collecting and reporting  
outcomes data for benchmarking ambulatory ~~outcomes monitoring of~~  
surgical procedures comprising the steps of:

collecting primary source surgical outcomes data sets  
including a plurality of responses to a set of indicators for a  
plurality of patients via one or more user interfaces;

converting at least some of the primary source surgical  
outcomes data sets including the plurality of responses to the  
set of indicators into at least one outcomes result;

establishing a norm ~~for~~ based at least in part on an  
outcomes data group, the outcomes data group comprising a  
plurality of the outcomes data sets including the plurality of  
responses to the set of indicators;

comparing a selected one of the at least one outcomes

result to the norm; and

generating at least one outcomes monitoring report comprising the selected one of the at least one outcomes result and the norm.

12 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:

transmitting the primary source surgical outcomes data sets including the plurality of responses to the set of indicators to a data processor.

13 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:

selectively restricting access to the at least one outcomes monitoring report.

14 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:

posting the at least one outcomes monitoring report to a webpage.

15 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of:

selectively restricting access to the webpage.

16 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

collecting the primary source surgical outcomes data sets including the plurality of responses to the set of indicators from a plurality of surgical centers; and

individually identifying and converting the primary source outcomes data sets including the plurality of responses to the set of indicators for each surgical center of the plurality of surgical centers;

wherein the outcomes data sets including the plurality of responses to the set of indicators from the plurality of surgical centers comprises the outcomes data group.

17 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 16, wherein the at least one outcomes monitoring report includes at least one outcomes result for a selected surgical center of the plurality of surgical centers and at least one comparison of the norm to the selected one of the least one outcomes result for the selected surgical center.

18 (Currently Amended). At least one processor readable ~~carrier~~ medium for storing a computer program of instructions configured to be readable by at least one processor for instructing the at

least one processor to execute a computer process for performing the method as recited in claim 11.

19 (Currently Amended). An apparatus for collecting and reporting outcomes data for benchmarking ambulatory surgical procedures~~outcomes monitoring~~, the apparatus comprising:

a data collection portion including one or more user interfaces wherein the data collection portion collects outcomes data sets associated with one or more medical procedures for a plurality of individuals;

a data processor portion wherein the data processor portion receives the outcomes data sets associated one of the one or more medical procedures from the data collection portion and wherein the data processor comprises:

a converter portion wherein the converter portion converts at least some of the outcomes data sets associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures into at least one outcomes result;

a norm establishing portion wherein the norm establishing portion establishes a norm ~~for~~ based at least in part on an outcomes data group, the outcomes data group comprising a plurality of the outcomes data sets associated with the one of the one or more medical procedure;

a comparison portion wherein the comparison portion

compares a selected one of the at least one outcomes result to the norm; and

a report generation portion wherein the report generation portion generates at least one outcomes monitoring report comprising the selected one of the at least one outcomes result and the norm.

20 (Currently Amended). The apparatus ~~for outcomes monitoring~~ of claim 19, further comprising a webpage portion wherein the webpage portion posts the at least one outcomes monitoring report ~~is posted to~~ a webpage.

21 (Currently Amended). The apparatus ~~for outcomes monitoring~~ of claim 19, further comprising a security portion, wherein the security portion selectively ~~restricting~~ access to the outcomes data sets associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures, the at least one outcomes result and the at least one outcomes monitoring report.

22 (Cancelled).

23 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of claim ~~22~~19, wherein the ~~surgical procedures~~ outcomes data sets associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures are primary source



data sets.

24 (Currently Amended). An article of manufacture for collecting and reporting outcomes data for benchmarking ambulatory surgical procedures~~outcomes monitoring~~, the article of manufacture comprising:

at least one processor readable ~~carrier~~medium; and

instructions carried on the at least one ~~carrier~~processor readable medium;

wherein the instructions are configured to be readable from the at least one ~~carrier~~processor readable medium by at least one processor and thereby cause the at least one processor to operate so as to:

collect outcomes data sets associated with one or more medical procedures for a plurality of individuals;

convert at least some of the outcomes data sets associated with one of the one or more medical procedure into at least one outcomes result;

establish a norm ~~for~~based at least in part on an outcomes data group, the outcomes data group comprising a plurality of the outcomes data sets associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures;

compare a selected one of the at least one outcomes result to the norm; and

generate at least one outcomes monitoring report comprising the selected one of the at least one outcomes result and the norm.

25 (Currently Amended). At least one processor readable ~~carrier~~ medium for storing a computer program of instructions configured to be readable by at least one processor for instructing the at least one processor to collect and report outcomes data for benchmarking ambulatory surgical procedures~~monitor outcomes~~ by performing the steps of:

collecting outcomes data sets associated with one or more medical procedures for a plurality of individuals;

converting at least some of the outcomes data sets associated with one of the one or more medical procedures into at least one outcomes result;

establishing a norm ~~for~~ based at least in part on an outcomes data group, the outcomes data group comprising a plurality of the outcomes data sets associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures;

comparing a selected one of the at least one outcomes result to the norm; and

generating at least one outcomes monitoring report comprising the selected one of the at least one outcomes result and the norm.